

Abstract

The aim of this master thesis is to create a proposal of a project entitled *Viral and bacterial infections* which can be used for biology education at upper primary schools or at the corresponding levels of gymnasiums respectively. The demands of the society evolve dynamically. As a consequence, the needs emerge to equip pupils not only with knowledge but also to nurture the development of their practical skills and to shape their sets of values. The *project method* is an example of an educational method wherein the potential resides to cultivate a broad spectrum of key competencies with a view to enabling pupils to find their subsequent use in the society. In the theoretical part, the history of the project method is presented. Moreover, the various arguments in favour of and against this method are discussed. Furthermore, this part of the thesis contains characterisation of the contemporary educational system as well as the fundamental descriptions of selected viral and bacterial infections.

The practical part concerns the achievement of the main goal of this thesis, that is the creation of the project proposal entitled *Viral and bacterial infections*. The proposed project is shaped in accordance with the requirements of the *Framework Educational Programme*, bearing in mind the acquisition of the key competencies by pupils. The core of the project is rooted in the simulation of situations from everyday life. Hence, the pupils are required to empathise with the role of a patient, doctor, laboratory technician or public health officer. In the project, the emphasis is put on the development of the pupils' interpersonal skills. The pupils are encouraged to cooperate with their classmates in order to solve problem-oriented tasks. The piloting of the project was carried out at an upper primary school in Prague, description of which is included. The results from the pilot came under scrutiny, leading to the identification of the shortcomings of the project and the subsequent implementation of appropriate amendments. The scrutiny of the pilot included the evaluation by the participating pupils, who completed the project with enthusiasm and evaluated the project highly positively. This resulted in a comprehensive final version of the project which can be employed in educational practice.

Keywords

Project, viruses, bacteria, illness, cooperation